

Appl. No. : 09/910,422
Filed : July 20, 2001

REMARKS

In the July 26, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 9-11, 26-27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,678 to Doberstein, et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,960,028 to Okamoto, et al.; and allows Claims 1-8, 12-25, 28, and 30-34. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are filing an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) concurrently with the filing of this response / preliminary amendment. The IDS lists are recently cited in the related case with Application No. 09/910,477.

Rejection of Claims 9-11, 26-27, and 29

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have canceled Claims 9-11 and 26 without prejudice herewith to speed issuance of the allowed claims. Accordingly, the rejections to Claims 9-11 and 26 are now moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Applicants have amended Claim 27 to change dependency from Claim 26, now canceled, to allowed Claim 28. Applicants request allowance of amended Claim 27.

Applicants have amended Claim 29, which was previously rewritten in independent form. Claim 29 has been amended to return Claim 29 to dependent form, and to change dependency from Claim 26, now canceled, to allowed Claim 28. Applicants request allowance of amended Claim 29.

SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of Claims 9-11, 26-27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and to allow Claims 27 and 29. Applicants further request the Examiner to pass the present application to the issue process.

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If there is any further impediment to the prompt allowance of the present application, Applicants request the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney of record at 310-407-3466 or at the telephone number listed below to resolve any such impediment.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 4, 2005

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